

Appl. No. 09/895,524  
Reply to Office action of 08/29/2003

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the above amendment, and of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this case. Claim 2 is amended herein.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter with applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection now be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the AAPA in view of Ngo and Yao as there is no disclosure or suggestion in the references of forming a HDP liner layer, wherein a portion of the HDP liner layer over metal leads has sloped edges and forming a gap-fill layer over the liner layer. The AAPA teaches a liner layer and gap fill layer, but does not teach the liner layer being a HDP liner layer with a portion over the metal leads having sloped edges. Ngo and Yao teach HDP gap fill layers, but not HDP liner layers. At most, Ngo and Yao would suggest replacing the gap fill layer of the AAPA with an HDP layer. There is no suggestion provided by the prior art for replacing the liner layer of the AAPA with an HDP liner layer where a portion of the HDP liner layer over metal leads has sloped edges. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the AAPA in view of Ngo and Yao.

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The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over the references for the reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 2 depends.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 and further in view of Shields (U.S. 6,083,850).

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 11 are patentable over the references for the reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claims 4 and 11 ultimately depend. Shields is added to teach a silane-based oxide.

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 and further in view of Bothra et al. (U.S. 6,046,102).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is patentable over the references for the same reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 6 ultimately depends.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12.

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Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is patentable over the references for the same reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 7 ultimately depends.

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 and further in view of Aug et al. (U.S. 6,284,644).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is patentable over the references for the same reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 8 ultimately depends.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 and further in view of Tsai et al. (U.S. 6,376,394).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over the references for the same reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 9 ultimately depends.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in combination with Ngo et al. (U.S. 6,333,263) and Yao et al. (U.S. 5,814,564) as applied to claims 1, 3, 5 and 12 and further in view of Wolf.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is patentable over the references for the same reasons discussed above relative to claim 1, from which claim 10 ultimately depends.

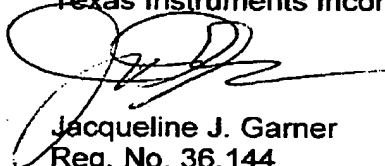
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The other references cited by the Examiner have been reviewed, but are not felt to come within the scope of the claims as amended.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1-12. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,

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